(a) the major problems of human beings and ecology in the pilgrimage to the internationally famous shrine Sabarimala, attracting millions of pilgrims and devotees, as listed out after the Public Accounts Committee's cognizance;

(b) the stage of master plan envisaged in this connection;

(c) the major hurdles yet to be tackled; and

(d) whether there would be a time-frame for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The major problems listed in the report of the Public Account Committee (PAC) are in the paras no. 66, 68 and 81 of the report. These, *Inter alia*, include lack of clean drinking water, hygienic food, medical facilities, shelters, dormitories, toilets; absence of shelters for sleeping at nights along the hilly footpath and narrow tracts unable to contain massive flow of pilgrims on their journey uphill. Concerns have also been expressed by environmentalists for protection of the fragile eco-system while carrying out developmental works in the areas.

(b) The Master Plan prepared M/s IL and FS Ecosmart India Limited was approved by the State Government of Kerala on 3rd May, 2007. The Master Plan was prepared after examining the comments from all stake holders.

(c) and (d) M/s IL and FS Ecosmart India Limited has submitted a long term Master Plan incorporating all aspects of regional development in the context of Sabarimala pilgrims and detailing the developmental vision for the immediate requirements by November, 2007. A short term Plan till 2015 and a long term Plan till 2050 have also been envisaged. The State Government of Kerala has also constituted Working Level Committee and Apex Level Committee for the implementation of the Master Plan.

National Green Tribunal

†3221. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has placed any proposal to constitute the National Green Tribunal before Cabinet;

(b) whether it is proposed to include judges and experts in the field of environment and forests in the National Green Tribunal;

(c) whether public representatives would also be included in this Tribunal, apart from judges and experts;

(d) the number of proposals pending with the Ministry for No Objection Certificate, State-wise; and since when these proposals are pending; and

(e) whether developmental activities in forest areas in States are stalled, as these proposals from States are pending for many years?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests submitted a Note for the Cabinet on 17.7.09 proposing establishment of the National Green Tribunal. The Note along with the draft National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009 was approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 23.07.2009.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not issue "No Objection Certificate". However, environmental clearances are given to industrial and infrastructure projects under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991. Similarly, under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, prior approval of the Central Government is essential for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. This is to regulate the indiscriminate diversion of forest land for non-forestry use and to maintain a logical balance between the developmental needs of the country and the conservation of natural resources.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Utilisation of the amount of use of forest land

†3222. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money deposited for afforestation, in lieu of using forest land, and annual interest amount being accrued on it;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has directed to provide one thousand crore rupees every year for development of forests and providing employment to rural unemployed, out of this interest amount;

(c) if so, by when the required blue-print in this regard would be prepared;

(d) whether the Court has also emphasized upon regular monitoring of the scheme; and

(e) if so, the arrangements being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As on 30.06.2009, about an amount of Rs. 9,932.12 crores has been deposited by the States/Union Territories with *Ad-hoc* Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (*Ad-hoc* CAMPA). This amount has earned an interest of Rs. 1328.23 crores. A statement showing the State-wise amount remitted into the account of *Ad-hoc* CAMPA by State/UTs and the interest accrued thereon is placed at Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* Order dated 10.7.2009 in IA No. 2143 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad *Versus* Union of India and Others has permitted *Ad-hoc* CAMPA to release money to the extent of Rs. 1000 crores yearly for a period of five years to the State Compensatory Afforestation Fund

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.